

[The Indianapolis Star](#) had coverage over the weekend of the Congressman's [recent decision](#) to not seek earmarks in Fiscal Year 2009.

*The Columbus Republican said he does not think all earmarks are bad, but that too many projects are not being funded fairly and responsibly, and a timeout is needed.*

*Project funding does not go through a competitive review but is distributed based largely on clout -- including a lawmaker's committee assignment or leadership position, whether his party is in the majority or whether he faces re-election.*

[Sen. Evan Bayh](#) , D-Ind., supported the moratorium because Congress needs to rein in federal spending, and a break on pork-barrel projects is a good place to start, according to his spokesman.

[Sen. Richard Lugar](#) , R-Ind., voted against it because he thinks the process should have more transparency but not be eliminated.